



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS AND DÁIL REFORM

*Amendment of Committee names, matters relating to remit and
Orders of Reference of Committees, and amendments to Standing
Orders relating to Committees*

Adopted by the Committee
14 April 2021

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1. Remit and Orders of Reference

1.1 Department titles which imply a change in titles of sectoral Committees

“That the Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, appointing Committees is hereby amended in respect of the names of certain Committees, as set out in column (2) of the Schedule below, and each such Committee shall perform the functions set out in Standing Order 95 in respect of the Government Department or Departments listed in column (3) opposite each Committee.

SCHEDULE

(1) Select Committee established on 30 July 2020	(2) New name of Select Committee	(3) Government Department(s)
1 Agriculture and the Marine	Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Agriculture, Food and the Marine
2 Children, Disability, Equality and Integration	Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth,
3.Climate Action	Environment and Climate Action	Environment, Climate and Communications
4 Transport and Communications Networks	Transport and Communications	Transport; Environment, Climate and Communications
5.Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht	Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media	Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media

”

1.2 Remit of the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Networks and the Joint Committee on Environment, Climate and Communications

“That notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders or in the Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, all matters relating to Communications as set out in Standing Order 95, including—

- (a) legislation, policy, governance, expenditure and administration, and
- (b) matters relating to State bodies and non-State bodies,

within the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, are within the remit of the Select Committee on Transport and Communications and shall not be within the remit of the Select Committee on Environment and Climate Action.”

1.3 Remit of the Committee of the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community and of the Joint Committee on Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht

“That notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders or in the Order of the Dáil of 30 July, 2020, all matters relating to the Gaeltacht as set out in Standing Order 95, including—

- (a) legislation, policy, governance, expenditure and administration, and
- (b) matters relating to State bodies and non-State bodies,

within the responsibility of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, are within the remit of the Committee on the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking Community established pursuant to Standing Order 123 and shall not be within the remit of the Select Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media.”

“That Standing Order 123 of the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended by the deletion of paragraph (5) and the substitution of the following:

- ‘(5) The Dáil Standing Committee shall perform the functions set out in Standing Order 95 in respect of all matters relating to the Gaeltacht within the responsibility of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 96.’.”

1.4 Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters

“That Orders of Reference of the Select Committee on Disability Matters agreed by Order of the Dáil of 22nd September, 2020, are hereby amended by the deletion of paragraphs (2) and (3) and the substitution of the following:

‘(2) That the Select Committee on Disability Matters shall consider and report on—

- (a) the “Implementation Plan” for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and national strategies including the National Disability Inclusion Strategy and sector strategies for the purpose of—

- (i) ensuring implementation plans are configured to advance the UNCRPD while delivering outcomes for persons with disabilities in their lived experience and planning into the future;
 - (ii) making recommendations which align the plans and strategies of Ireland's international obligations;
 - (iii) monitoring progress of the drafting and initiation of required and relevant legislation;
 - (iv) engaging with Ministers and the Secretaries General of relevant Government departments regarding implementation measures and budgetary measures;
 - (v) aligning the UN Sustainable Development Goals with the provisions of the UNCRPD;
 - (vi) supporting the embedding of a rights-based approach to disability as provided by the UNCRPD within Ireland's economy, society and culture;
 - (vii) reviewing Ireland's Report/s to the UNCRPD Committee;
 - (viii) monitoring and ensuring the timely implementation of the Optional Protocol of the UNCRPD;
- (b) the effectiveness of—
- (i) all national processes established to implement the UNCRPD;
 - (ii) the National Framework for Monitoring the implementation of the Convention including engagement with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the National Disability Authority.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the Committee shall—

- (a) engage with persons with disabilities, family carers, Disabled Peoples' Organisations, service providers and advocates in the Committee's work;
- (b) consider other topics that the disability community identifies as key as agreed by the Committee;
- (c) have regard to Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Committee) with respect to Ireland's periodic reports, review the Government response to the Observations of the UN Committee and make its own recommendations with respect to same.'."

2. Conduct of Committee meetings and technical amendments

2.1 Business Committee acting as Committee of Selection for nomination of members to serve on Select, Special or Standing Committees

“That Standing Order 34 of the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be deleted and substituted with the following:

‘**34.** When acting as the Committee of Selection, the Business Committee shall nominate members to serve on Select, Special or Standing Committees, none of whom shall be a member of the Government or a Minister of State, and shall have the power to discharge members of such Committees from time to time and to appoint others to serve in substitution for those discharged: Provided that, notwithstanding any Order of the Dáil, a member who is appointed as a member of the Government or a Minister of State automatically stands discharged from any Committee to which they were nominated. The Business Committee, when acting as the Committee of Selection, shall also administer the allocation of Committee Chair posts according to the d’Hondt system under Standing Order 104(2).’.”

2.2 Standing Order 106 – Ex Officio Membership of, Substitution in, and Attendance at Select Committees

“That Standing Order 106 of the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended by the substitution of the following for paragraph (2)(a):

‘(2)(a) In the absence of a member nominated to serve on a Select or Special Committee, a substitute may take part in the proceedings and shall be entitled to vote in the absent member’s stead: Provided that the nominated substitute may not be a member of the Government or a Minister of State.’.”

2.3 Procedure for the provision of Committee documents to Standing Invitees- Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement

“That the Order of the Dáil of 23 July 2020 establishing the Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement be amended by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (5):

‘(6)(a) The Committee may agree to provide copies of Committee documents to the members of the Westminster Parliament referred to at paragraph (4).

(b) Where the Committee agrees to provide such copies, the Committee may further agree that, subject to any prior direction that the Committee may give from time to time in

respect of any document or class of documents, the Chairman of the Committee shall, by circulating a list of the documents concerned, give notice to members of the Committee of the documents of which, and the time at, and date on which, those copies are to be provided: Provided that any member of the Committee may by communication to the Chairman, raise an objection to that provision, whether in respect of any specified document or documents, or of all documents listed, and where any such objection is raised, a decision in relation to provision of copies of the document or documents the subject of the objection will be made at the next meeting of the Committee.

- (c) The Committee may specify the minimum notice a member of the Committee must give of an objection referred to in subparagraph (b), and the Chairman is not bound to have regard to an objection later communicated.'."